

The Commonwealth.

E. E. HILLIARD, - - - Editor.
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THE CAMPAIGN.

The political campaign in North Carolina is becoming interesting, or would if the democrats could settle down dead sure on what they are expected to do.

The gubernatorial candidates and the candidates for Congress from the various districts, together with other speakers, have gone into the field and are beginning to make it lively.

A few days ago we heard a very intelligent gentleman of Norfolk making some observations on the North Carolina campaign, and among other things he said that the Democratic party has a most excellent and able corps of speakers on the stump.

It is even true. Neither the Republicans nor the Populists can match the Democratic speakers now before the people. The speakers now in the field are able and are discussing national and State interests with a power seldom equalled in any campaign.

Added to these the local speakers in the various counties will soon add considerable strength; and all told it now promises to be one of the most interesting campaigns we have had for years.

SOUND MONEY DEMOCRATS.

Last week there was held a remarkable convention in Indianapolis. It was a convention of persons who hitherto have supported the regular Democratic ticket, but who were unwilling to vote for free silver and the candidates nominated at Chicago. It was a remarkable convention because in it were some very wise and level-headed men, and men who heretofore have been regarded as patriotic.

The convention nominated Senator Palmer of Illinois for President and General Buckner of Kentucky for Vice-President. President Cleveland was urged to accept the nomination for President by these sound money Democrats, but he refused to allow his name to go before the convention. The personnel of the convention was such as to command the respect of the country, though most Democrats think their zeal misdirected.

To be sure, the men who favor the gold standard ought to be credited with honesty in their convictions, and there is no reason for charging them with anything less; but when the majority of the Democratic party spoke at Chicago, made a platform and nominated candidates on that platform, we believe the minority ought to have yielded to the majority and fought together for what all regarded as common interests, even though there were points of disagreement between those who favored the gold standard and those who favored free silver.

It seems very evident that the new nominations made by these gold standard Democrats can amount to nothing in the way of polling votes. They do not hope to do that. They know that their movement will weaken the silver forces and will therefore militate against Mr. Bryan's election and will insure to McKinley's advantage.

If this is what these gentlemen held their convention for we think the straight-forward thing for them to do would have been to vote straight out for McKinley and their financial convictions.

We think this would have been the more manly course. However bright the democratic prospects have seemed since the Chicago convention, there can be no doubt that this action of the gold standard Democrats makes the situation somewhat complex, and it may possibly be the means of electing McKinley. If this should be the event of it, all those Democrats who have thus prepared the way for the Republican victory surely will feel deep humiliation at this fatal stab they have given to the party to which they have clung so long.

BRYAN COMING.

W. J. Bryan, Democratic candidate for President, will pass through the State Sept. 17th and 18th. He will spend the night of 17th in Goldsboro, will speak in Rocky Mount on the 18th from 12:30 to 3 p. m. He will go then to Weldon and speak ten or fifteen minutes. Thousands will hear him all along the line from Asheville to Weldon.

POPULISTS AND REPUBLICANS FUSE.

Populists Took Senator, Sheriff, Treasurer and one Commissioner and Left The Rest for the Republicans.

Last Monday the Populists held their county convention in Halifax. Committees from the Populists and Republicans had previously agreed that the Populists should nominate for certain offices and leave the rest to the Republicans.

The Populists held caucus for three or four hours Monday. There was a lively discussion behind the closed doors, some favoring fusion with the Republicans and some opposing it. The report of the committee outlined the plan of fusion. Capt. E. A. Thorne offered the following substitute for the report of the committee:

"Whereas, it is a fixed principle with the People's party that free and unlimited coinage of gold and silver at the ratio of 16 to 1 is the paramount question before the American people; therefore,

Resolved, That we pledge ourselves to support no man for any legislative office who does not unequivocally and unqualifiedly avow himself in favor of free coinage, and against the election of any gold standard candidate for President or United States Senator."

Capt. W. H. Kitchen led the debate in support of the substitute in a speech of more than an hour's length. When the vote was taken with kitchen in the chair it stood 30 for the fusion report to 10 for Thorne's substitute.

Capt. Kitchen, Capt. Thorne, Mess. Henry N. Clark, John Patterson and others walked out and said they would have nothing to do with a fusion with a party that declares for gold.

With J. T. Dawson permanent chairman of the convention the following nominations were made: For the Senate the names of C. P. Simmons and E. T. Clark were put before the convention, and when the vote was taken Clark was declared the nominee for the Senate.

W. E. Bowers was nominated for county treasurer, J. T. Dawson for sheriff, A. A. White and T. N. Harrison for county commissioners and A. E. Thorne for surveyor, notwithstanding Capt. Thorne had left them.

REPUBLICANS FELL IN.

The Republicans held their convention Tuesday, after an all-night caucus in the court house, with State Chairman A. E. Holton to advise them.

Holton addressed them Monday night and Tuesday morning. (We shall refer to Holton's speech at another time.)

Tuesday after a long caucus behind closed doors, which meant a strong fight against fusion by some of the Republicans, the doors were opened and the Republican convention assembled.

Mack M. Ferguson acted as temporary chairman. J. H. Hannon was made permanent chairman, R. J. Perry secretary, and — Robertson assistant.

The Populists did almost all their speaking in the caucus but the Republicans were full in the convention, even after an all-night caucus. There was a general hubbub and considerable confusion as to what they should do first. Here he it said to the credit of the colored people that what was done was done by them alone, for not a white man took a seat or opened his lips to suggest or offer a single nomination.

County officers were first nominated. The names of Mack M. Ferguson and H. B. Williams were put before the convention for register of deeds, the office left vacant by the Populists. Ferguson was nominated.

The names of C. P. Anthony, Guilford Gee, and N. Pender were put before the convention for commissioner. Anthony's nomination was made unanimous.

For coroner the names of Dock Shearin and I. J. Powell were put before the convention. Some one called out "Ike's dead!" "The name of Ike Powell is withdrawn," said the man who put him in nomination, and Dock Shearin's nomination was made unanimous.

FOR THE LEGISLATURE.

Here sure-enough speech-making began. For the lower House of the General Assembly the following names were variously placed before the convention: R. J. Perry, C. C. Baker, J. M. Pittman, Albert Austin, H. J. Hewlin, J. H. Arrington, J. H. Collins, Scotland Harris and B. W. Brown.

In eulogizing his candidate one speaker said, "He is educated in Greek, Latin, and many other languages." Some one in the crowd roared, "Don't misrepresent your man."

When the final ballot was taken the choice of the convention for candidates for the lower House of the General Assembly was Scotland Harris and J. H. Arrington.

The court house was packed full. There were perhaps a dozen white men standing on the outer edge to see and hear, some Democrats and a Republican or two, but the white Republicans took no part whatever in the convention.

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MR. KITCHIN'S CANVASS.

Halifax county, all Eastern Carolina, and in fact the whole State is proud of the brilliant canvass which Mr. W. W. Kitchen is making for Democracy in the Fifth district. Mr. Settle, his opponent, spoke in generous terms of Mr. Kitchen in Washington a few days, ago as reported in Saturday's Post.

The Durham editor for the News & Observer wrote last Saturday as follows:

"Notwithstanding the notice was short and the rain which at times fell in torrents a large crowd greeted W. W. Kitchen. Everybody knows who Mr. Kitchen is, that he is the popular candidate of the Democratic party for Congress in the Fifth district. He has been in the western part of the district and has made many friends. On his way home it was necessary for him to spend a night in Durham and as the people were anxious to hear him talk free silver and Democracy, an appointment was made for him. But for the inclement weather the court house would have been packed. A large crowd was there any way and gave Mr. Kitchen an enthusiastic greeting.

"He was presented to the audience by H. A. Foushee, chairman of the Democratic county committee, in an appropriate speech. For an hour or more this young champion of Democracy and free silver pleaded most eloquently with the people to rally around the standard of the people's rights and do their full duty in November next. He made a most favorable impression, and all who heard him went to their homes more determined than ever to do their full duty in this contest."

REMOVE THE DOUBT.

MR. EDITOR.—In your recent editorial, "Let us Line up," you sounded the right key. It is certainly time to line up. Never was there a political campaign in which certainty of action was more necessary. Never was there a campaign in which the enemy was more determined and better organized. Hope alone will not win. Work inspired by hope only can triumph. Hesitation and doubt never won a victory. Soldiers can not and will not fight until they know the enemy to fight. Are the Democrats to make a fight? Is it worth their while? If so, let us know how and whom to fight. If we are to judge from the newspapers, time only serves to settle the night of doubt and darkness thicker and thicker around us.

If we fuse on the electoral ticket with the Populists, our speeches, our arguments, our whole plan of work will be different than if we are to fight a Populist or a Populist and Republican fusion ticket.

Every Democrat in this contest should be a campaigner. Every Democrat has an interest in it. Every prudent Democrat can help the cause. Every good Democrat desires to help it. The most effective work can be done in our fields, at our places of business, in our homes, by the road side, face to face with our neighbor. Our people should be armed with wise arguments and not bitter denunciations. They want their neighbors to vote with them. They desire to convince them. But how can they approach them—what appeals can they make? Our leaders seem to delay—seem not to know what is best. Then how can our voters—our lay workers know the best? Must we appeal to our neighbors to vote for Bryan and Watson or to vote for Bryan and Sewall? Or shall we appeal to our more stubborn friends on either side—the "middle-of-the-roads"—to vote for the fusion ticket? Shall we persuade them that every patriot and sincere silver advocate ought to vote for Bryan and Sewall against Bryan and Watson and McKinley and Hobart? What must we do? Nobody can tell us but Mr. Manly and his committee. Why don't they tell us? Why keep us longer in suspense? Why continue to dicker and dally with the Populist committee? If we want to fuse with the Populists, then let Mr. Manly ask their committee whether they will fuse or not. If they say yes, then let us fuse and go to work. If they say no, then let us fight single handed. How long a time will it take Mr. Manly to ask Mr. Ayer? They are both in Raleigh. Five minutes walk and a dozen words would settle the matter one way or another.

The committee cannot elect the electoral ticket. The tens of thousands who have never even taken a peep into the "inner circle," carry elections. These tens of thousands are asking themselves and each other daily, what are we going to do? There comes no answer. Doubt, delay.

Now, really, are we going to fuse or not? Let the committee tell us. Some of us want fusion and some of us don't want it, but all of us want to know whether we are going to have it or not.

Let doubt be lifted from our minds and delay give way to work, work! VOTER.

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STATE NEWS.

There is still friction in Winston over the liquor question. Some time ago the board of aldermen for the city issued licenses to liquor dealers for sixty days to give them time to sell out their stock. The time expired last Friday night and according to the action of the aldermen there will be no licensed bar-rooms in the city for some time. Such was the news to the News & Observer Saturday.

The joint debate between Hon. Cy. Watson and Maj. Guthrie began at Rutherfordton last Friday. Judge Russell had been urged to be present and join the debate but he was not there. He refuses to enter into joint discussion with Watson and Guthrie.

Guthrie and Watson have started out in friendly manner and they propose to do their work on the high plane of gentlemanly courtesy.

Saturday's News & Observer said: "Governor Carr yesterday honored the requisition of the Governor of Ohio for Frank Polser, now in jail at Charlotte, who is wanted in Ohio for murder in the first degree. The murder was committed two years ago. The two men by whom he was captured had followed him for four hundred miles and has been hot on his trail for days.

"When they caught him they tied his hands, got into a hack and drove to a photograph gallery, where they had a photograph of the murderer taken.

"His captors were about to take him to Ohio without waiting for Governor Carr to honor the requisition. But when they ran up against the law they decided to wait until they received the proper authority from His Excellency."

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James M. Newton, of Aberdeen, Ohio, says he bought a bottle of P. P. P. at Hot Springs, Arkansas, and it did him more good than three months' treatment at Hot Springs.

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